TRIAL PREPARATION AND ARGUMENT FOR THE HADLEY CHILDREN

Newsflash: David McClean narrowly escaped injury in the nursery and summoned the police. After a three-day hunt in the veldt, an arrest has been made in the tragic death of George and Lydia Hadley; young Peter and Wendy are in juvenile detention.

Your assignment will be to make an OPENING ARGUMENT to the jury in the CRIMINAL PROSECUTION or DEFENSE of Peter and Wendy.

Consider the following general legal principle:

* SELF-DEFENSE is defined as the right to STOP another person from harming you. This means that in certain situations, individuals can defend themselves using force.
* In addition, people can use force in certain situations when they DEFEND OTHERS IF they believe that there is an immediate threat of physical harm to that person.

To prepare for your group’s OPENING STATEMENT,

* COLLECT EVIDENCE from the TEXT that would support a verdict of GUILTY or NOT GUILTY.
* INCLUDE 8-10 SPECIFIC and DETAILED EXAMPLES AND/OR QUOTES from the short story, “The Veldt.”

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

* age of the children
* ability level of the children
* conduct of the children
* statements made by the children
* whether the children were acting to “protect” another “person”
* motives for the children’s behavior and actions
* conduct of the parents
* statements made by the parents
* motives for the parents’ behavior and actions
* whether the parents were acting to “protect” another “person”